Rain water harvesting

†2041. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to huge scarcity of drinking water in the country, Government propose to harvest rain water on roof tops of houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of other steps Government propose to take to prevent rainwater from flowing down into the sea and utilise it for human purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the problem of water scarcity and depleting ground water level in some parts of the country, Central Ground Water Baord (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has implemented a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water during the VIII and IX Five Year Plans. The CGWB has also formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting during the remaining part of the X Five Year Plan.

(c) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps to prevent rainwater from flowing down into the sea and utilise it for human purposes. Central Government has also taken following measures in this regard:—

(i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rainwater harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iii) States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iv) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons who adopt roof rainwater harvesting in their premises.

(v) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rainwater in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory.

(vi) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rainwater harvesting to around 1800 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private enterpreneurs and individuals.

(vii) In 673 over-exploited and 425 dark/critical areas in the country, State Pollution Control Boards and Ministry of Environment & Forests obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for any industry/projects. A pre-condition for any permission is the mandatory adoption of rainwater harvesting system by the industry/project for ground water recharge.

(viii) On similar lines, other developmental projecs located in Coastal Regulation Zone obtain NOC from CGWA as pre-requisite for environment clearance.

(ix) The CGWA has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad to adopt rainwater harvesting system.

(x) Launching of a website on Roof top Rain Water Harvesting (www.egwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(xi) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.